

ANTIQUARIAN NOTES:

MAINLY OF MEN AND MATTERS

CONNECTED WITH THE

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THE "MATTHEW HENRY" CHALICE,
CHESTER.

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Matthew Henry's Cup.

The silver cup, here pictured from a photograph taken by the late Sir Thomas G. Frost, belongs to the old congregation worshipping in Matthew Henry's Chapel, opened on the 8th August, 1700. It is 5 inches in diameter, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall. The assay letter is that of London, 1703-4.

This congregation also owns another silver porringer known as the "Statham" cup, 1723-4; and the two silver "Bevan" cups, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall, 1745-6. Its plate chest contains in addition two valuable pewter flagons, and six pewter patens. Photographs and rubbings of the vessels and their inscriptions can be seen in the Editor's collection.

This block was originally used to illustrate "Vestiges of Protestant Dissent," 1897, long out of print; and is here reproduced at the request of one of the subscribers to ANTIQUARIAN NOTES.

Swansea :

“ Rugged Church Business.”

The following letter (here printed for the first time) was copied from the original, lent to the Editor by Mr. John Hopkins, Nicholaston House, Gower, on the 23rd May, 1904, and duly returned at the hands of Miss Brock and Mr. C. H. Perkins, Swansea. It was enclosed in the pocket of a green vellum-bound flap account book, tooled with gilt, and having a quaint brass clasp. The pages of this book contained numerous entries of interest by the Rev. Solomon Harries, some referring to the students placed under his care, in 1784, by the Managers of the Presbyterian Fund. Lydia Voss, writer of the letter, was sister to Captain William Harries, both being children of Mr. Harries, who was minister (1750—1785) of the Swansea congregation, and was then succeeded (1786—1814) by the Rev. Wm. Howell, alluded to in the letter. Lydia married (1788) John Voss, a native of Nicholaston, and was grandmother to Mrs. John Hopkins.

Swansea, 7th Jany, 1814.

My dear brother,

I feel anxious to address you. I hardly know how to begin, or be silent. My complaint is rather against my writing, God be praised it is no

worse. I will venture and trust I shall be supported. My dear partner has had a short, *but smart attack* of another Bilious-fever. Through mercy I trust he is on the recovery. I have left him for a few minutes to communicate a few things on my mind I can no longer keep.

In the first place, respecting our Meeting.* About six months ago Mr. Howel found his eyesight fail him; consequently he desired an interview with Mr. Rowland,† informing him he must give up his ministry. The latter, in a most tender manner, beg'd him not to be in a hurry; hoping he might soon get better. Mr. Howel would not rest, but got Mr. R. to write to Mr. Peter,‡ Carmarthen, for a Mr. Thomas|| to come over without delay for a month. Mr. Rowland did not know this young man, a very poor speaker indeed, of the *Unitarian principal*. Many of us did not, like Mr. Rowland and family, profess *that Doctrine*, yet at the same time they, with the utmost respect, came constantly to hear Mr. Howel, and I have Mr.

* High Street. This chapel, built in 1698, was razed in 1846. See painting of its exterior in the Royal Institution of South Wales, Swansea.

† Grandfather of the late Miss Mayzod Rowland.

‡ David Peter, b. at Aberystwyth, 1765; presided over the Presbyterian College for nearly 40 years; d. 4 May, 1837. Author of 'Hanes Crefydd yn Nghymru,' 1816, pp. 704.

|| Probably the Rev. John Thomas (d. 1861), min. at Pantdefaid, at intervals, 1816—1847. He entered the College in 1809.

R. . . . 's *own words* that if the former had acted in the right way things would not have been as they now are. He has left us a poor, scattered flock, Lord God Almighty interfere, bring us together by the cords of *Thy love, minister and people*, and may he be *Thy servant Indeed and in truth*. Then all will be well. Perhaps my time may be very short to attend the *House of God!* This I will add, never will I go *there* if *my dear Redeemer!* is made no more than a *mere man*. This text of Scripture struck *me deeply*,—and I hope I shall *abide by it*, John, 3rd Chaptr, 36 verse, ‘He that believeth on the son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.’ No earthly friend hath fix’d my mind so far, I must judge for myself, and answer at the *Great day of Judgement!* Lord, enable Thy poor unstable servant to give a good account of herself at last.

Sunday, Janry 9th, 3. o’clock.

I could wish to give you a short but *real account* of this *rugged* Church business, in the first place Mr. Howel’s great error was in going from *his own people*, to consult some of the same way of thinking as old Lewis Rees,§ and I am sorry to add (some

§ A well-known Independent minister; father of Dr. Abraham Rees, the Cyclopædist.

of them) seemingly with the same bitter spirit as old *Ben Davies*.* Joint with Mr. Howel they sent for a young student from Carmarthen to assist Mr. Howel. Mr. Rowland (in particular) would not submit to any such thing for these troublesome Calvinistical *Bigots* to enter within their walls. "What shall I say to Billy Harries (if ever I see him)," these were his words, even to Mr. Howel and many besides. In consequence of all this, there is a new Meeting-house building in Castle-bailey Street. Mr. Tom Jones (Voss ; sweet cousin) and many such as himself are the leading men. Miss Ann Harries,—a member of our Meeting (she is a chip of the old block), together with Mr. Howel, and his *second*† daughter have been very much the cause of this melancholy division. May the Lord sanctify it to us. This ought to be the prayer of us all,—He has many ways to try vain Mortals, and He does support them. Cannot my dear *Captive brother* join his sister in this assertion? Voss and self feel very much obliged to you for your brotherly feeling with respect to poor John,‡ he certainly has been very much out of the right path of his duty, and I firmly believe his poor

* Will any reader identify?

† Rosalinda, b. 15 August, 1783. Cf. Lewin's Mead Register, Bristol.

‡ John Matthew Voss, eldest s. of John and Lydia Voss ; b. 14 February, 1789.

Father—even now—feels from it. *Unfortunate youth* to be so soon led by the artful designs of capricious people, I can say *no more*. I think it plainly appears by his poor face he will not be long in this state of trial. With justice I can add he is indefatigable in business, and has a very pretty manner in pleasing customers, and very much beloved by rich and poor. I can assure you he was much grieved by your letters, some times I could hear him say with a deep *sigh*—"My poor uncle,"—lay aside a mother's feelings, this I have added is a truth. I hope he will yet come to see his error. I am in spirit for writing, I must own my complaint is not so. My paper will not permit me to say much more. Oh! when shall we (if ever) see you home. I can hardly believe my tender brother has been from his native country *so long*. God grant this great affliction may prove a blessing to you and to me; we have had, my dear Billy, great advantages, do not let us lay them *dormant in the dust*, you and I must rise *or fall* by *our great Judge!* no deception with Him, names or parties hath no *Influence*.

I hear there is a letter come from you, gone to Landoverly. I hope Mrs. Harries|| will soon let me

|| Probably the Captain's wife; his mother—Lydia, dau. of Wm. Cave, Essex Street—d. 30 December, 1763; Solomon Harries was married to her on 26 August, 1753, in Christ Church, Newgate Street, London.

know how you are, the last account I had from her they were well. My dear husband joins me, with sons, in affectionate love to you. Mr. Rowland and family, Miss Rowland and brother, we concur in wishing my dear brother a happy and safe return soon to his dear friends, who long now more than ever to see him, your presence is much wanted at this *critical time*.

Affectionately Your sister
LYDIA VOSS.

Addressed :—

To Captain William Harries,
Prisoner of War,
Longwy,
France.

Endorsed :— Received March 26th.
Ansd 30.

Cheshunt : Presbyterian Chapel.

Many interesting facts about this congregation are to be found in its register, which extends from 1730 to 1799. An entry made in it by Cuth. Relph on the 19th December, 1840, when depositing it with the Commissioners, reads :—

Founded about 1705, and dissolved in the removal of Rev. E. Cogan to Walthamstow.

The first entry in the book (leather bound, 15 inches tall, 10 broad) was by the *Rev. John Oakes, Min., Cheshunt*, and is dated *24th February, 1729/30*. He was careful to give particulars of any circumstances of especial nature at his baptisms, *e.g.*:—

29 Oct., 1731. Robert, s. — Grenaway, and — his wife, Cheshunt. N.B. The Mother lay in the next room dying. The Father was absent, and the Grandfather sustained the part of the Father.

He makes his last entry on the 4th April, 1745, and is followed by the *Rev. John Mason, Min., Cheshunt*, from the 9th July, 1746, to the 24th November, 1762.

In the Interval between Mr. Mason's Death and Mr. Mr. Worsley's Ordination there were two baptisms:—

4th April, 1763, by the Rev. Mr. Good, of Epping.

7th May, 1763, by the Rev. Mr. Stopford, of Enfield.

The long ministry of the *Rev. Samuel Worsley* begins with the note:—

Rev. S. Worsley was ordained pastor of the Protestant Dissenting Church at Cheshunt, 28th June, 1764,

from which date until the year 1795 his entries are

numerous. The following refer to members of the Worsley family, long and honourably connected with our group of churches :—

CHILDREN OF SAMUEL AND HANNAH WORSLEY.

Anna, b. 29 April, 1766 ; *Samuel*, b. 6 Oct., 1767 ;
Philip, b. 4 March, 1769 ; *Elizabeth*, b. 17 Jan., 1772 ;
Samuel, b. 25 April, 1774 ; *Benjamin*, b. 19 Aug.,
 1775 ; *Sam.*, b. 17 Sep., 1779.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND MARY WORSLEY,
 HERTFORD, SCHOOLMASTER.

Israel, b. 28 March, 1768 ; *Obadiah*, b. 10 Dec.,
 1773 ; *Samuel*, b. 21 Aug., 1775.

Richard, s. *Obadiah Hughes Worsley*, surgeon, of
Ware, and wife *Dinah*, b. 25 May ; B. 11 June,
 1768.

Henry, s. *Rev. Israel Worsley* and *Elizabeth*, his
 wife, b. 10 Sept. B. 6 Oct., 1793.

Mary, dau. *Nathanael* and *Margaret Worsley*, of the
Minories, London, b. 18 Sept., 1795.

Henry, s. — *Do.* — of *Clapton*, near *Hackney*,
 b. 2 Oct., 1796.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND ELIZABETH WORSLEY,
PARISH OF ST. ANDREW, HERTFORD.

Elizabeth, b. 22 Dec., 1795; *George*, b. 27 July, 1797, B. 30 Aug. by Rev. J. Thorowgood, of Bocking, Essex. N.B. 8th Sept., 1797, copied by desire of Mr. John Worsley, of Hertford, from his Family Register. *Sarah Reeve*, their dau., b. 27 Nov., 1798, B. 31 May, 1799, by Sam. Worsley.

CHILDREN OF JOSEPH BLANDY BUNNY,
SURGEON, NEWBURY.

Samuel, b. 3 Oct., 1792; *Martha*, b. 20 Sept., 1794.

Amongst the other entries are:—

William, s. Thos. Blackmore, Esq., of Briggins, High Sheriff, co. Herts, and Harriott, his wife, b. 23 Dec., 1778, B. 8 Feb., 1779.

Eliza, dau. Rev. Wm. Shaw, Enfield, and Elizabeth his wife, b. 7 Jan., 1787, B. the same day.

There are no entries by Mr. Cogan, whose ministry here was in 1800 and 1801.

The list of ministers would appear to be:—

Caleb Wroe,	—
John Oakes,	[1730]—[1745]
John Mason,	1746 — 1763

Samuel Worsley, 1764 — 1800

Eliezer Cogan, 1801 — 1801

Wroe was one of the members of the Ministers' Club, which met at Chew's Coffee House, and was attended by Dr. Lardner, Dr. Samuel Clark, of St. Alban's, Dr. Hunt, and others. It was for the ordination of Oakes that Dr. Watts composed his "Exhortation to Ministers." Mason was the author of the once popular ethical treatise on "Self-knowledge." Cogan lived to be 92, and died in 1855; his father, John Cogan, was born in 1698—the two lives thus covering a period of nearly 157 years, including a part of the reigns of William III. and Queen Victoria, and the whole of those of Anne, the four Georges, and William IV. Benjamin Disraeli, afterwards Lord Beaconsfield, was one of Eliezer Cogan's pupils at his Walthamstow school.

The late Mr. Edward Cobb, writing on the 11th October, 1897, says of this school:—*I was a schoolboy at Mr. Cogan's at Higham Hill; the large plain old Meeting-house which we used to attend was in Marsh Street. The Rev. Henry Acton, afterwards of George's Meeting, Exeter, was then minister. My old friend and schoolfellow Henry Solly could tell you all about it, for his family, who lived then at Leyton House in the neighbourhood, were regular attendants, and used to come to Meeting in a large coach and pair, for*

they were then wealthy city merchants, or rather the father the late Mr. Isaac Solly was one.

Acton (d. 1843) was minister at Walthamstow, 1821—1823, it being his first regular charge, though he had regularly supplied Ditchling in 1820, when under the Rev. Dr. Morell's tuition at Hove.

Alltyplaca Chapel, Cardiganshire.

In the peaceful burial-ground which surrounds this chapel, built in 1837 to take the place of the original one erected in 1740, lies all that can die of many men and women closely connected with the history of Non-conformity in this and other counties. Here will be found the graves of Esau Evans (d. 1868), who superintended the quarrying and dressing of the stones used to build St. David's College, Lampeter, and of his wife, Margaret Lewis (d. 1847), to whose simple home Iolo Morganwg was often made welcome; also of their son, David Lewis Evans (d. 1902, æt. 90), for many years Hebrew and Mathematical Professor at the Presbyterian College. A rough granite boulder marks the grave of the mother of John Gwenogfryn Evans, M.A., D.Litt. (Oxon.), who was born hard by at Ffynnon Velvet. Thomas Jeremy Griffiths (d. 1871), known as "Tau

Gimel," lies here; he was one of the scholars of Davis, Castell Hywel, and, in 1828, wrote the biography of his old master. Near his grave is that of John Davies (d. 1858), who was ordained in 1820 to the ministry of this and other kindred congregations, and remained at his post till death. Since 1864 the Rev. John Davies has been the respected minister of the congregation.

Banbury : Chained Books.

Do the chained books, formerly in the Old Meeting, Banbury, still survive? The late Mr. Edward Cobb, writing to the Editor from Lewes, on the 21st Sept., 1896, says:—

It has occurred to me that there were formerly some old books in the table pew in the Old Meeting at Banbury, with the remains of the chains by which they were fastened to some desk or table. They were of a not very large quarto size. I do not remember the subject of them, not being then so much interested in old literature, as I have since been: if still in existence they would probably be in the Vestry Library.

Will any local friend report on this matter? It would be of interest to have a list of all chained books and their remains now in our midst. In the Lydgate Chapel, New Mill, Yorks, may yet be seen and read the

works of Archbishop Tillotson, in three folio volumes, firmly chained to the Communion Table; there was also a volume of sermons, said to be by David Clarkson, chained with them, but this had gone in 1861. At Chester, in Matthew Henry's Chapel, his Commentary used to be chained to a desk in the gallery, which survived to recent years, *in situ*, long after the volume had been removed.

Historical Societies.

Our subscribers may like to have their attention directed to the valuable publications now regularly issued by the *Wesley Historical Society*, founded 1896; the *Congregational Historical Society*, founded 1900; and the *Friends' Historical Society*, founded 1903. Complete sets of all the matter these Societies have published to date may be seen in the library of the Editor of ANTIQUARIAN NOTES. At the meeting of the Ministers' Institute held at Manchester College, Oxford, in April, 1904, the Rev. J. Edwin Odgers, M.A., Hibbert Lecturer in Ecclesiastical Literature, read a paper, entitled "Chapel Records," and renewed his proposal made at the Triennial Conference, Leicester, 1900, for the foundation of an Historical Society. The proposal met with warm approval, and a resolution was carried by the meeting, authorising the Revs. J. E. Odgers and

F. K. Freeston to prepare a scheme and call a meeting for its consideration. *In this matter the subscribers to ANTIQUARIAN NOTES feel no small pleasure that their little publication has appeared continuously since St. Bartholomew's Day, 1898, and that the 27 parts already issued contain much original matter not obtainable elsewhere.*

Dictionary of National Biography

The sixty-five volumes are particularly rich in biographies of Presbyterian and Unitarian ministers, Puritan divines, Dissenting tutors, schoolmasters, and ejected and silenced clergy. A complete list of the 616 articles signed "A.G.," *i.e.*, the Rev. Alx: Gordon, M.A., has been compiled. As no index is given in the work of authors' articles, this list has only been made possible by turning over every page of every volume, and noting the articles so signed. It is written on 37 quarto sheets, and has just been bound, and is now included in the library bequeathed to Manchester College, Oxford, in April, 1892. Every entry gives the full names, years, and catch-line of the persons biographed, thus showing at a glance whose life has been told by "A.G." The volume is now in the Editor's custody. A note on the title page by its compiler states that it was *Begun in Lent Term, 1899, and finished Michaelmas Term, 1900.*

Register of the Octagon Chapel, Liverpool, 1762—1780.

(Continued from p. 64).

1771.

Ann Kirkpatrick, d. Hezekiah and Margaret Kirkpatrick, b. 7 March, bap. 23 March by

Nicholas Clayton.

witness, H. Kirkpatrick.

[Dear old Hezekiah ! he gave his daughters ordinary names—Alice, Ann, Margaret—but his sons come down to posterity as William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, Homer, and James Cowley Kirkpatrick !! Daughter Margaret (d. 1853 ; her chaste funeral card is in the Editor's collection) was sometime governess to the children of the noted Wm. Magee, Archbishop of Dublin.]

1771.

John Barron, s. Alexander and Susannah Barron,

b. 20 March, bap. 1 April by

Nicholas Clayton.

witness, Alex. Barron.

1771.

Samuel Joseph Clegg, s. James and Sarah Clegg,

b. 31 July, bap. 25 August by

H. Kirkpatrick.

witness, James Clegg.

